



Neighborhood Leaders Forum

Aug. 15, 2013 Meeting Summary

James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Rd.

22 neighborhood representatives in attendance from the following communities:

Stonehouse Glen

Wexford Hills

Berkeley Realty

Kingsmill

Governor's Land

Merry Oaks

Ford's Colony

Stonehouse

Great Woods/Sand Hill

Settlement at Powhatan

New Town Residential

Fenwick Hills

Creek

Skiffes Creek

Peleg's Point

Brook Haven

Graylin Woods

Windsor Forest

Two Board of Supervisors members, Mr. Jim Icenhour and Mr. Andy Bradshaw were also present.

The next Neighborhood Leaders Forum (NLF) will be Nov. 7, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Rd. The agenda will be sent out one week prior to the meeting.

County Administrator's Update

Storm Debris Pickup

Following the Aug. 10 storm, citizens are now permitted to combine bulk waste materials (not limited to storm debris) with neighbors for a single pickup. For more information, visit the County website: jamescitycountyva.gov/bulkipickup.

Flood Insurance Rate Reduction

The County's flood plain management efforts have earned lower flood insurance rates for residents. Most homeowners who must carry flood insurance will see an automatic 15 percent reduction on flood insurance premiums.

Questions from the Audience to the County Administrator:

- **How to find updates about roadwork in the County that may impact citizen commutes/neighborhoods:** VDOT road projects should be listed on their website: virginiadot.org/projects. County-led projects that might affect traffic would be listed on our website: jamescitycountyva.gov (under "What's new in James City County"). The best way to receive notifications about this and other important citizen information is to follow James City County on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- **How to deter solicitors in neighborhoods:** Unfortunately, Police can't enforce a neighborhood-wide "no solicitation" policy, but individual homes can post "no solicitation" signs on their property. Police can be called to verify that solicitors are properly licensed.
- **How to see pending projects by Planning Department:** On the County's Citizen Services page (jamescitycountyva.gov/citizens), click on "Planning and Land Use" to find a list of projects, the Comprehensive Plan and a link to CaseTrak.

- **Proffers, development and planning:** There was a discussion about planning in the Stonehouse area of the County. Though citizens do not always agree with one another about a long-term vision for the County, the Board of Supervisors is always interested in hearing from a wide range of citizen opinions. A list of Board meetings, as well as video archives of past meetings, is available online: jamescitycountyva.gov/bos.
- **Curbside leaf pickup:** Asked if the County could implement a program to allow citizens to rake leaves to the edge of their property to be vacuumed up by leaf machines, Mr. Middaugh explained that the machines require concrete curbs to operate effectively. (See Next Door Neighbor item under “Citizen Services Web Page and Social Media” section below.)

Citizen Services Web Page and Social Media

- **Neighborhood email address:** We encourage neighborhoods/HOAs to establish a general email address (ex. neighborhood@gmail.com) that is monitored by the current neighborhood leaders. This way, as HOAs elect new leadership or if people relocate, the County can maintain contact with current neighborhood representatives.
- **Neighborhoods not in attendance:** Elected HOA representatives or neighborhood leaders from all County neighborhoods are invited to the Neighborhood Leaders Forum (NLF). However, the contact information we have for many neighborhoods is out of date. If you have contact information for neighborhoods not in attendance at this meeting, please forward it to Latara: latara.branch@jamescitycountyva.gov.
- **Nextdoor.com:** This social media [website](#) allows neighborhood residents to create accounts and communicate internally, such as announcing HOA meeting dates or requesting services/referrals like babysitting or lawn mowing. *Note: this site is not affiliated with nor maintained by James City County; it is simply a resource that neighborhoods might find helpful.
- **Neighborhood grants and rebates:** These and other neighborhood resources are available through the County’s Citizen Services web page: Click on “Neighborhoods” and then “[Neighborhood Resources](#)” to find a list of grant opportunities and other helpful links.
- **HOA mentoring:** If your HOA would like to mentor another HOA in James City County that has had challenges and wants to get back on track, please contact Latara. If your HOA has any suggestions or best practices to share, please send that information to Latara: latara.branch@jamescitycountyva.gov.
- **Meeting topics list:** At the end of each NLF, attendees complete a survey that asks for suggestions for future meeting topics. The guest speaker and agenda for each meeting is based on this feedback, and we will continue to work with individual citizens to answer specific concerns or invite guest speakers to talk to the group about broader concerns.

Guest Speaker: MPO Alan McDowell, James City County Police

MPO Alan McDowell gave a presentation about how citizens can protect themselves from identity theft. A previously recorded video on this presentation, given by MPO Hal Diggs, is available on the County’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=i3SQhmESHqc

MPO McDowell was asked **how to deter speeding in neighborhoods**: All James City County officers carry radar and can be called to do extra patrols in a neighborhood where speeding is a problem. They can also set up a trailer to conduct a speed study. If you observe speeding vehicles in your neighborhood, please note the time of the event, as this will help officers determine the best time of day to target their efforts.

MPO McDowell encouraged neighborhood leaders to call the Police Department or contact him directly if he can be of assistance with citizen concerns:

James City County Police Department: 757-253-1800 (jamescitycountyva.gov/police)

MPO Alan McDowell: alan.mcdowell@jamescitycountyva.gov

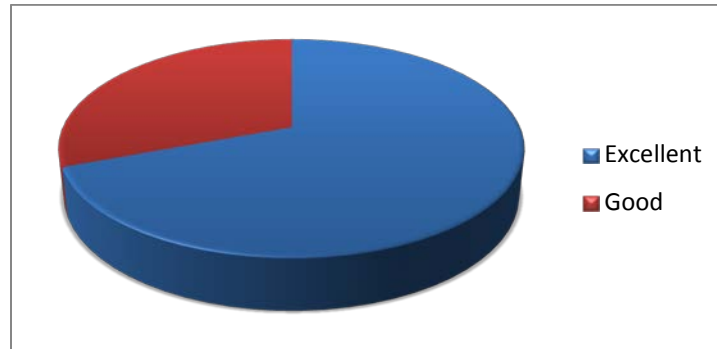
Group Exercise

Due to time constraints, the meeting attendees agreed to postpone the group exercise until another meeting. We may change the format for a future Neighborhood Leaders Forum to allow time for neighborhood representatives to network and talk to peers in attendance.

Meeting Evaluation Survey Results

The survey comments were transcribed verbatim, but names and contact information have been removed.

Overall, how would you rate the helpfulness of this meeting?



Comments:

- Appreciate the openness of this format and discussion
- Excellent speakers & good presentation by Officer McDowell
- Great info to take back to HOA
- Great Woods/Sand Hill needs to amend the Chap 9 JCC Code Sec. 9-3 pa. 1 burning household debris
- Ofcr. McDowell was very informative, keep the guest speakers coming --> VDOT!
- Police presentation very good- can use parts of it in our newsletter
- Sometimes difficult to hear w/out mic
- Time- 90 minutes at top
- very informative
- Where is the Longhill expansion study at in the press? Our neighborhood, Windsor Forest, has some questions and concerns and suggestions.*

Do you have any suggestions to improve this meeting?

- I will send you a link to an HOA blog website nationally; would be nice to build one for JCC
- More question and answer time with the County Administrator in lieu of a guest speaker to address topics on list
- More time for questions or other way to address questions
- Set time limits on Q&A
- Tackle the "list"
- Try to have microphones to allow all to hear; to include those who ask as well as the response. Keep tables.
- Use mic for speakers
- Wish you could marry the room size to the attendees. This space was way too large for the attendance you have tonight.

What topics would you like to see addressed at the next meeting?

- Burning of household debris in a subdivided neighborhood zoned A-1
- Emerg./nat. disaster prep
- Emergency & natural disaster preparation
- General info about what's working in governing an HOA
- Our developer in Stonehouse Glen IS our HOA and will be quite a while. However, when homes are purchased, our builder is our only "point of contact". Ryan Homes is our builder and "misled" all the folks in Section 1 as to what amenities would be available immediately. One such amenity is a "place" to park boats, which the developer is not building any time soon. How much can a builder lie? Ryan Homes told us "other misleading things" as well, such as the BMP ponds would be "wet ponds with fountains, in a park-like setting". We found out that's not true! The BMP ponds, in Stonehouse Glen, were scheduled to be "dry ponds" with water in then during & only during storms from the "get-go". At what point can the builder, Ryan Homes, be shut down for all the lies?*
- Tackle the "list"
- Target rich list already exists
- time to interact with each
- Update on I64 survey for expansion of the highway***

**Ellen Cook, Planner III, responded directly to the author of this question and has offered to address additional questions directly. In summary: We are planning a public meeting toward the end of September and within the next two weeks, we will launch a new project website: www.longhillroadcorridorstudy.com. The website will include a survey for citizens to submit input.*

***Latara is working with staff to address these questions and will contact the author directly.*

**** VDOT press release: virginiadot.org/newsroom/hampton_roads/2013/crews_to_survey_i-6466982.asp*